Upgradation of deep penetration Jaguar fighters

798. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status with regards to upgradation of deep penetration Jaguar Fighters and Jaguar Trainers indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore;

(b) the details of present status with regards to upgradation of Jaguar prototype with the navigation and weapon attack sub-system indigenously by HAL and Defence Avionics Research Establishment;

(c) whether Government has released sufficient funds for these projects;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Contract for upgradation of Jaguar aircraft to improve navigation and weapon aiming capabilities has been finalized with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Defence Avionics Research Establishment have jointly taken up indigenous development. The development has progressed satisfactorily.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An advance payment has been made available to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(e) Does not arise.

Contract for refit of a naval ship

799. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naval Dockyard, Mumbai awarded a contract relating to refit of a naval ship;

(b) if so, the details thereof;